



A **motorised wheelchair** is a mobility aid with two or more wheels and a maximum speed of 10 km/h on level ground. Motorised wheelchairs have been specially built to transport a person who is unable to walk, or has difficulty in walking. A motorised wheelchair user is deemed to be a pedestrian under the NSW Road Rules 2008.

Licensing and registration

A motorised wheelchair does not need to be registered. A motorised wheelchair user does not require a licence or third party insurance.

Planning a safe route

If more assistance is required, contact your local council's Access Committee, which may be able to provide information to help plan a safe route.

Transport for NSW

For further enquiries
13 22 13

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A guide to using motorised wheelchairs on NSW roads



Requirements for using a motorised wheelchair in NSW

A motorised wheelchair in NSW must:

- Not have the capacity to travel faster than 10 kilometres per hour on level ground
- Not have an unladen mass greater than 110 kilograms

As a user, you must:

- At all times travel at a maximum of 10 km/h or less
- Have a reasonable need to use a wheelchair due to physical disability or limited mobility
- Obey all of the road rules, including signs, for pedestrians
- Not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver
- Not unreasonably obstruct the path of another driver or pedestrian
- Not be affected by alcohol or drugs when travelling on a road or road-related area such as a footpath

Provided that the above safety rules are met, a motorised wheelchair can be used on a footpath, nature strip or shared path.

A shared path is an area open to the public to be used by both riders of bicycles and pedestrians.

How to safely operate a motorised wheelchair

You need to be able to:

- Operate controls and manoeuvre the wheelchair
- Keep your balance and adjust your body position when travelling across uneven ground
- Identify obstacles and avoid collisions
- Judge speeds and distances
- Make good judgements to protect your safety and others

It is important to note that prescription/over the counter or other drugs or alcohol may affect your ability to operate your motorised wheelchair safely, particularly if mixed together.

If you are concerned about your ability to use a motorised wheelchair, your doctor or health care professional may be able to arrange an assessment by an accredited occupational therapist.

Tips for travelling safely

- ✓ Plan a route that allows access to a footpath for the entire journey.
- ✓ Know where there are kerb ramps for safe crossings.
- ✓ Take extra care when leaving the kerb to cross the road.
- ✓ Wait until the traffic has stopped before travelling onto a pedestrian crossing.
- ✓ Be prepared to stop for pedestrians at all times.
- ✓ Look out for vehicles that are entering and leaving driveways.
- ✓ Avoid highways, roundabouts, major roads and areas used by high volumes of traffic or heavy vehicles.
- ✓ If there is no footpath and you must be on the road, travel along quieter streets, keep to the side, and face oncoming traffic wherever possible.
- ✓ Attach a safety flag to your chair so it is high enough above your head to be visible to others.
- ✓ If possible, attach rear view mirrors on your chair for checking behind you.
- ✓ If you must travel at night, use lights and reflectors to aid visibility.